



Blacktown Boys High School

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Advice to Parents and Students: Proposed Plan as at Tuesday 24 March 2020

The Premier of NSW has encouraged families to keep children at home for the remainder of Term 1. However, Blacktown Boys' High School remains open.

The following arrangements are in place to enable students to learn from home.

Daily Organisation

- Home Room for those students at school will occur in regular rooms or allocated year group spaces. A message will be conveyed each morning to indicate where students will work that day. Students will proceed from Home Room to their Year's designated area. The areas will be determined by daily numbers and the capacity of each location. COLA areas and other outdoor spaces may be used as/if the need arises. Students will be expected to comply with distancing guidelines.
- Rolls will be marked each period by supervising teachers. SMSs for absent students will not be sent during this time, but you can monitor attendance on the Parent Portal. Contact the school via email if you have not accessed this before (blacktownb-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) and state in the subject line: ATTN: Parent Portal. In the message state your child's first and last name.

How will Blacktown Boys' High School facilitate Learning from Home?

- Subject lessons can be accessed online. Text and hard copies of work will be made available on request. Email the school with the subject line : Request for Work and the full name of your son. List subjects in your message.
- All classes have an online learning platform. This could be Google Classroom, Edmodo, Microsoft Teams, or similar. Students are to use this online platform to complete their learning activities and communicate with their teachers. Teachers are unable to reply individually to emails, as their focus will be teaching via the online learning platform.
- Student questions regarding assessment should be asked directly through the class online learning platform.
- Video conferencing tools are being explored but may not be used straight away. Communication regarding these technologies will occur if processes have been put in place for their use.
- Examination style (in-class tasks) will NOT be held onsite for the remainder of Term 1. These tasks may proceed in an alternate format and students must ensure they understand the changes. All information about assessment tasks will be communicated by class teacher via the online learning platform.
- Illness / Misadventure processes will apply in some limited circumstances. Factors solely related to Learning from Home are unlikely to constitute grounds for misadventure.
- Official school communication will continue as normal via emails and Facebook (www.facebook.com/blacktownBoysHigh).

How can students make the most of Learning from Home?

Students must know their teacher's Google Classroom code, and/or other online learning platforms. Students must check their Department of Education email for this information. If your son has forgotten his password please email the school with the subject: ATTN: Year (the year your son is in) Advisor - Password.

What students can do:

- Organise a clear space at home.
- Use their timetable to be organised and ready to learn.
- Take the initiative with their learning – it is up to students to make this work as best as possible.
- Complete tasks with integrity and academic honesty. Students are to do their best work.
- Meet timelines, commitments and due dates. Students are to communicate proactively with their teachers if they cannot meet deadlines or require additional support.

How can parents help?

- Set clear and positive expectations that learning will continue at home.
- Please understand that Learning from Home cannot look the same as the regular learning process. See links below for advice.
- Check your access to the school timetable through the Parent Portal.
- Encourage regular sleep patterns and routines.
- Emails should go to the school email address with the appropriate subject heading
- Please do not directly interact with Google Classroom (or other online platform), as this is a student learning space.

What is the Department of Education doing to assist with Learning from Home?

- The Department's Learning from Home website has many resources. Parents are welcome to access these resources to assist the learning from home. The Department will provide updates on future developments which we will share through email.
- A one-page document titled Remote Learning Guidelines for Students and Parents provides useful tips.

What if my child needs to come to school?

- **The Premier of NSW has strongly encouraged families to keep children at home.** If this is not possible, our site will be open with some staff present to supervise students' online learning.
- This means students attending school will NOT experience a regular school day. It is highly likely that outdoor spaces may need to be used for students undertaking online lessons. Students will need to prepare for this - ie, dress warmly on cold days. Playground areas will be limited and students assigned to a particular area.
- Students must bring their own food. The canteen is closed.
- Students electing to attend school must remain on site for the entire day
- Extra-curricular activities will not take place, and the site will close at 3.00pm.
- Homework Centre will be closed.

FAQs

1. What will happen to the HSC this year?

NESA is meeting (Tuesday 24 March) to discuss the ongoing learning of senior students, particularly in the context of the HSC. For the HSC major works, further advice from NESA is being sought

2. What if my child needs a textbook or other hard-copy resource?

The school site remains open. If you need to access resources from the school, please email your request to the relevant Head Teacher first so we can have the correct resources ready for you to collect from Reception.

3. What if I need to contact a Deputy Principal, Year Advisor, Librarian, Counsellor, Careers Advisor, or Head Teacher?

Please contact the school via the school email (blacktownb-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) and state in the subject line the person's name, or role that you wish to contact (eg, ATTN: Deputy Principal Year 7).

4. What if my child finds the work too difficult?

The online platform is the "classroom" - students are encouraged to ask questions and ask for assistance through this platform.

5. What if my child needs additional support / modifications to access learning?

Classroom teachers will build-in adjustments as per usual practice.

6. What if my child needs extension work?

The online platform is the "classroom" - students are encouraged to write questions and ask for assistance through this platform.

7. How can I access the Teacher Librarians for support with research?

Teacher Librarians can be accessed via email. (see point 3).

8. What if there is "group work" in the subject my child studies?

Teachers will determine the nature of this task and alternatives may be considered. Students should communicate with classroom teachers through their online learning platform.

9. What if my child does a subject with practical work?

Teachers are investigating all options in regard to practical work. We understand that there will changes and adjustments as we navigate Learning from Home and teachers will provide more advice about practical work as it becomes available.

10. Will every subject/teacher be using the same online platform?

While Google Classroom is the most popular platform, some classes operate within other platforms. Your child has received information from their teachers about the platform being used and how to access it.

11. Will the canteen be open?

No. The canteen will be closed in line with Department of Education advice to create social distancing.

12. Will school bus services continue to operate?

At present, the bus services will operate as normal.

14. What about extra-curricular activities?

All extra-curricular activities have been cancelled until further notice. There are no exceptions to this.

